

16 January 1951

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE NIS COMMITTEE

1. The NIS Committee has for some time been concerned over the general situation in respect to basic intelligence collection, maintenance, and production for the NIS Program. In view of the increasingly critical international situation, the Committee is of the opinion that much greater emphasis must be given to the NIS Program to provide the essential basic intelligence on strategically important world areas at the earliest practicable date. The Committee has therefore examined this matter and has arrived at certain conclusions, set forth hereinafter, which it desires be laid before the Director of Central Intelligence for consideration by the Intelligence Advisory Committee.

2. The actual operations of the NIS Program have extended over the past two years. The experience of this period confirms the essential soundness of the Program as a means of developing the basic intelligence needed by the Government. There has been a vacillation of support by the Intelligence Agencies, however, which has greatly complicated the task and weakened the production effort. Moreover, the uneven quality of NIS contributions indicates a serious lack of qualified personnel available for NIS work. The NIS Committee considers that no real measure of improvement in the NIS Program can be realized at any level of effort without first effecting a fundamental improvement in these aspects of the Program.

3. Recently the Secretary of Defense has directed the Armed Forces Agencies to assign support sufficient to maintain NIS production at the equivalent rate of 8 NIS a year on a long range, continuous basis. At this rate of production there should be available by the end of this fiscal year the approximate equivalent of 18 NIS. Considering only the 60 high priority areas contained in the JCS list, there will still remain the equivalent of 42 NIS to be produced beginning with fiscal year 1952. How soon this job should be done is determined by the national security interests. How soon this job will be done is determined by the amount of support which is directed toward its accomplishment.

4. At a sustained rate of production of 8 NIS a year the NIS on all high priority areas will be completed and placed fully on a maintenance basis sometime during fiscal year 1957. This is nearly 5 years beyond the original target date approved in 1948 by the IAC, the JCS, and the NSC. In spite of the urgency of the present situation, the Committee feels that too much time has already been lost to make the original target date a feasible goal. The

Committee therefore agrees that an intermediate target date should be set on the basis of a reasonably attainable augmentation of NIS production capabilities within the CIA and the IAC Agencies. This is indicated in the following table and sets the completion of the primary requirements by the end of fiscal year 1954. There will also be needed additional capabilities for the maintenance of published NIS.

	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Equivalent NIS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Previous production	(1949	3½	3½
	(1950	6½	10
Present authorized level of production	(1951	8	18
Proposed level of production	(1952	12	30
	(1953	15	45
	(1954	15	60

5. In order to achieve the foregoing NIS production schedule, it will be necessary to build up a competent staff in each agency actually capable of this production at the beginning of the fiscal years involved. To do this needs more than mere authorization. It needs the assignment of a priority for the NIS Program in each agency commensurate with its importance and sufficient to ensure the acquisition of this staff both through new recruitment and through realignment of agency capabilities. Moreover, there will be needed a greatly increased collection effort to fill the serious gaps which now exist and to keep the basic intelligence up to date. The NIS Committee therefore recommends:

a. that the NIS on all JCS high priority areas be completed and placed fully on a maintenance basis by 30 June 1954;

b. that the Intelligence Agencies assign to the NIS Program a degree of priority which will ensure the summary attainment of adequate production and maintenance capabilities for this task; and

c. that the collection of NIS requirements on high priority areas be afforded the necessary increased support.

FOR THE NIS COMMITTEE

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O/RR:D/Ba: [REDACTED]:dmd

cc: NIS Comm. (4) DCI (1)
IAC Memb. (4) ActgAD/IC (1)
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Chairman